

H.R. 1834– The Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009

Section 1. Short Title

The short title is the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009.

Section 2. Establishment of Office of Native American Affairs and Tribal Business Information Centers Program

This section establishes the Office of Native American Affairs within SBA and designates an Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs to oversee this office. This section set forth responsibilities of the Office, which include developing and implementing tools and strategies to increase Native American entrepreneurship; expanding the availability of business training, access to capital, and federal small business contracts for Native American entrepreneurs, expanding outreach to Native American communities and aggressively marketing entrepreneurial development services to this community, and representing the agency regarding Native American economic development matters. The Office is responsible for oversight and implementation of all agency initiatives regarding Native American entrepreneurial development. The Office is authorized for \$2 million for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

In addition, this section authorizes the Administrator to operate on a stand-alone basis or in coordination with other federal agencies, a Tribal Business Information Center (TBIC) program, where the Administrator may provide grant as described in this section, contribute agency personnel to the Centers, and contribute agency resources to the Centers for the purpose of providing Native American populations with business training and entrepreneurial development assistance. The Administrator shall establish by regulation a process to make such designations and grant awards under this program.

Under the TBIC program, the Administrator is authorized to designate and make grants of up to \$300,000 to Tribal Business Information Centers. Grants shall be used for the purpose of providing business workshops, business counseling, entrepreneurial development training, access to computer technology, and other resources to assist Native American Indians start or expand a business. There is authorized \$15 million for fiscal year 2010 and \$17 million for fiscal year 2011.

Section 3. Small Business Development Center Assistance to Indian Tribe Members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians

This section sets up a procedure within the Small Business Act whereby SBDCs funded by the SBA that are in “eligible” states can apply for an additional grant to be used solely to provide services to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. It defines eligible states as those that have a combined population of Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians comprising at least 1 percent of the state's total population, as shown by the latest available census. The

section places a cap on the program of \$300,000 per year but no matching funds are required.

A Small Business Development Center receiving a grant must request the advice of tribal organizations on how best to provide assistance to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide such assistance.

The legislation authorizes \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for the program. The Administration can carry out this program only with amounts appropriated in advance specifically to carry it out. The Committee intends that any funds appropriated to support this program be in addition to funds allocated to SBDCs under the normal formula for those funds and that such funds be specifically appropriated for this program.